Dear Volunteers and Friends,

I hope this letter finds you well. I would like to begin by thanking the volunteers who participated in the March 2009 excavation season in Tiberias. Many thanks also to the rest of you who were, unfortunately, unable to participate, but supported the project nonetheless.

I am happy to inform you that after the first successful season of excavation of the colonnaded building, located in the city center of ancient Tibeias; Dr. Katia Cytryn-Silverman received a research grant in the memory of Prof. Yizhar Hirschfeld, and will be conducting an additional season in October-November, 2009.

The main focus of the March season was to excavate squares in and adjacent to the colonnaded building, defining its phases, dating and architecture. Initial data was retrieved during the season, prompting further research questions dealing with the building, its phases and its urban context. These questions will be the focus of our work in the October-November season. Special finds from the first season include: a mosaic floor, an Arabic inscription, complete oil lamps and hundreds of coins.

The upcoming season will begin on October 10th and conclude on November 5th, (work in the field will be Sunday-Thursday). I would advise joining for all four weeks, but for other available options, please see attached application form. The expedition will be staying at the Aviv Hotel in Tiberias, in walking distance from the site. The cost of participation per person, per week is $500 for a single room or $400 for sharing a double room (Check in to hotel Saturday evening, check out Thursday noon. Meals are included from Sunday breakfast through Thursday lunch. The participation fee also includes all field trips and lectures. Student discounts are available; camping $80 per person, per week).

Please find attached an application form and feel free to contact me for further information and questions at: tiberiasexcavation@yahoo.com

As friends of Prof. Hirschfeld and lovers of archaeology, I'm sure you will appreciate the importance of this project and the difference which your participation can make. If you are aware of anyone who might be interested in joining the excavation, please pass along my contact information.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon!

Shulamit

Volunteer, Lorraine Isaacs, with mosaic floor discovered in March, 2009